

COUNCIL ACTION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE: 06/22/2010

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue Department

SUBJECT: Business Emergency Response Team Program (BERT).

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Deputy Chief Doug Nakama/533 4304

REQUESTED ACTION:

Authorize the Mayor or his designee to approve fees related to providing Business Emergency Response Team Services (BERT), reflected in the summary of this Report and in the attachment 1 provided.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the requested actions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM BACKGROUND:

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's (SDFD) Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) was created on March 15, 2004, with the purpose of organizing and training citizen volunteers as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) in the City of San Diego after the devastating Cedar Fire took 14 lives and destroyed more than 280,000 acres in 2003. Since that time CERT has held 22 training academies, trained 1323 citizens, and maintains an active roster of over 700 members. Building on the success of CERT, SDFD expanded emergency response training to include the training of private sector businesses to help them maintain continuity of operations during and after a disaster in the San Diego community. History has shown that the sooner a community's businesses can reopen after a large-scale disaster, the more quickly the entire community can begin to recover.

The Business Emergency Response Team (BERT) Training Program helps employees become a part of the solution at their workplace. San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel train and empower participants in safe and effective methods to take basic life-saving actions. In a widespread emergency situation, emergency services could become overwhelmed, leaving businesses on their own for possibly up to seventy two hours.

Curriculum includes basic training in the following areas:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Small Fire Suppression
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- Disaster Psychology and Team Organization

To date, the program has targeted large corporations in an attempt to reach large segments of the business community.

SDFD has conducted 6 BERT classes to date, training 188 people. San Diego's business community continues to express interest in the program, seeking additional classes. In order to support expanding services to meet requests for BERT training, SDFD seeks to recover expenses

incurred including personnel, travel costs, administrative costs, and consumable materials by invoicing program participants for training classes requested. Billing rates will be calculated using Fire Captain level pay scales. Rates will be reevaluated and adjusted annually to ensure that collected funds equal true program costs.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The fee for this program was designed solely to recover costs that the City will incur in providing this service.

The cost of a single class will be \$10,000 and will be billed entirely to the attending entity(s).

The cost breaks down to about \$7,000 of instructing hours provided by Fire Fighters (including overhead) and about \$3,000 in supplies.

The cost of this program will be recoverable. Charges will be drawn initially from the General Fund to pay for labor costs. However, reimbursement for those labor costs will come into the general fund in the form of revenue with a net zero result. Supplies will be purchased from the CERT fund and reimbursement for supplies will be deposited into the same CERT fund.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

This action does not authorize entering into any contract or agreement, however, future contracts or agreements associated with this action will be subject to the City's Equal Opportunity contracting (San Diego Ordinance no. 18173, Section 22.701 through 22.2708) and Non Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code Sections 22.3501 through 22.3517)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION: None

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Community participation and public outreach is at the core of the BERT Program. Outreach is planned to solicit businesses for participation.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

San Diego Fire Rescue Department and the San Diego Business Community

Mainar, Javier

Originating Department

Deputy Chief/Chief Operating Officer